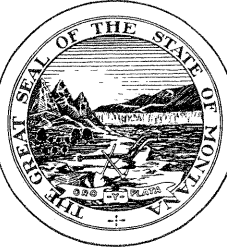


RESERVED WATER RIGHTS
COMPACT COMMISSION



JUDY MARTZ, GOVERNOR

CHRIS D. TWEETEN, CHAIRMAN

STATE OF MONTANA

Representative Cindy Younkin - Vice Chairman
Gene Etchart
Senator Bea McCarthy
Senator Bill Tash

Tara DePuy
Representative Gary Forrester
Lorents Grosfield
Steve Hughes

November 5, 2004

C. Bruce Loble
Chief Water Judge
Montana Water Court
P.O. Box 1389
Bozeman, Montana 59771-1389

RECEIVED
NOV 09 2004
Montana Water Court

Re: Draft Water Right Adjudication Rules

Dear Judge Loble:

The Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission appreciates this opportunity to comment on the revised draft Water Right Adjudication Rules. As we have previously commented, the water rights compacts negotiated by the Commission are in substantial part based on the integration of federal reserved water rights with water rights as recognized under State law. An accurate quantification of state water rights is essential to the successful operation of these compacts. The accurate adjudication of state water rights is also a pivotal issue in our remaining negotiations. Consequently, the Commission supports any procedural rules necessary to ensure that the statewide adjudication under the Water Use Act is accurate and adequate as applied. See State ex rel. Greeley v. Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, 712 P.2d 754 (Mont. 1985).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chris D. Tweeten".

Chris D. Tweeten, Chair
Reserved Water Rights
Compact Commission